

FARMERS' GAZETTE

AND CHERAW ADVERTIZER.

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MR. MAOLBAN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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SILK CULTURE.

The following are the concluding remarks of Mr. Roberts in his Silk Manual, a pamphlet which may be had at the Cheraw Bookstore, for 37 cents and which we recommend to all who wish to acquaint themselves with the silk culture.

Having finished the instructive part of our unpretending work, we would be permitted to make a few general remarks upon the propriety of agriculturists adopting the silk culture as a branch of their respective systems of husbandry, and will also avail ourselves of the occasion to present such other views as appear to us to be kindred to the subject.

We ask of our countrymen to receive the result of our labors with indulgence, as in preparing our Manual for the press, we have had no ambitious views or aspirations to gratify—pride of authorship never once entered into our mind—and in perfect truth we may most solemnly affirm, that our chief object in inculcating the labor and expense of publication, is to do good. The hope that we might be the humble instrument of commending the silk culture to the notice of that class of the community with whom our present and future interests and feelings are identified, has borne us up through many disadvantageous circumstances, and enables us to present what we have written to the consideration of the public; and to its decision, we shall most cheerfully submit.—Be that decision what it may, we shall have the consolation to reflect, that we have disinterestedly and as the offspring of our motives, and that no man can rightfully charge us with want of fidelity in the execution of our work. Of our motives we may, without rendering ourselves liable to the charge of egotism, observe that for years it has been manifest to us, that our country was in want of some other branch of agricultural industry, the products from which would serve to equalize the rates of exchange between us and Europe, and thus operate to reduce that balance of trade which has so long pressed with such an onerous weight upon the enterprise, industry and resources of our people, and rendered us so often, and so disastrously, the sport and victims of the revolutions of trade in the old world. Again, it appeared to us peculiarly proper that some other new branch of industry should be added to American husbandry, in order that profitable employment might be given to the females, the younger members, and the aged and infirm, of the families of the middling and poorer classes of our farmers and planters, and to the aged and young negroes of those in more opulent circumstances. And in casting our eyes in quest of it, we were very forcibly struck with the countless advantages—the happy adaptation of the *Silk Culture* to the objects we had in view. In the present state of the agriculture of our country, we are aware that, in numerous instances, virtuous females, the wives and daughters of families in humble life, are compelled by dire necessity to labor in the field, and participate with their husbands, fathers and brothers, in their more laborious toils. This, if possible, should be avoided; and we look forward to the day, and not a distant one, when every farmer's wife and daughter may, through the instrumentality of the silk culture, be relieved from those menial offices. This occupation of females to such unbecoming employment, is not confined to any peculiar section of our country; but is more or less peculiar to all. Some short time before we published the first edition of our Manual, we received from a gentleman of South Carolina—a man whose heart is in the right place, and whose feelings are as philanthropic as his mind is enlightened—we say we received from him a letter, in which he remarked—

"There are hundreds of our citizens, females, who can hardly make out to keep the bone greased by their present employment. Many of our females among the poor class, are under the necessity of working in cotton fields. This has always crossed the grain with me, and I have most ardently hoped that they might find some less laborious employment, that would yield them as much more profit; and I now look forward to better times in this part of the country. The common mulberry grows wild in great abundance in this section of the state, and cocoons of a fine quality have been produced from worms fed on them."

This is indeed, a most deplorable picture of the condition to which some of the females of South Carolina, in humble life, are reduced; but is not the less true, and though companionship in misfortune should ration-

ally afford no consolation, this wretched condition of things is not confined to that intellectual commonwealth alone; but as we have before observed, it is too common a thing in our land, and may be witnessed in every state in the Union—it may be said to have a "local habitation" in all parts of our country. And although human misery and a *delectant* are to be met with more seldom in America, perhaps, than in any other country in the world, still they abide among us, and bear with the more severity upon the gentler sex, their offspring, and the aged, than they do upon any others. In this condition of things, a remedy is absolutely and imperiously called for, and it becomes the business of the statesman, the political economist, and the philanthropist, each and all, to endeavor to discover one, and when discovered, to give to it the proper direction—to lend to it all his talents and zeal. To our mind, *Silk Culture* offers a sure and certain remedy: it unfolds the means of employment best calculated to do the greatest good—to save our countrywomen from those labors to which they are now subjected, which are ill suited to their sex, and revolting to the eye of philanthropy—it is, above all others, that business best adapted to the wants of the nation. It is a republic with interest to the intelligent and refined rich, as it is full of promise and hope to those in the humbler walks of life. To all it comes with healing on its wings. What can be more intensely interesting to the philosophic mind, than to see those ingenious insects busily engaged, during their short career in fabricating the most beautiful article that enters into the clothing which decorates the human form? How insignificant does man feel in the scale of the arts, as he beholds the humble silkworm exerting him in ingenuity?—But how ever interesting this part of the picture may be, there are others of infinitely more importance in their individual and national bearing. We allude, first, to the employment which this branch of industry will afford to the deserving and meritorious poor—the degree of solid comfort which it will unobtainable to the home of the cottager—to the innocent child—the boundless joy—that it will carry to the bosoms of the thousands and tens of thousands of virtuous females, and those upon whom age and decrepitude bear with so oppressive a weight. Secondly, to the large slave owner it offers employment of a profitable character to his young and aged negroes, thus enabling him to convert the services of those who have been hitherto burdens upon him, into sources of a lucrative kind, as the child of seven years and upwards, as well as the old hands who have been long consigned to the chimney corners, the corn crib, and the manutub, are efficient helps in the feeding of worms. And lastly, we ask a statesman to contemplate the sum of benefit which will result to us in our national capacity, whenever our country becomes in part a silk growing one. With respect to the latter, we have no doubt that in twenty years as many millions of dollars in value may be added by the products of the silk culture to our exports. We will not enlarge upon this branch of the subject further than to give an extract from a letter which we addressed last winter to a friend in reply to certain queries which he propounded to us, while the subject of encouragement was pending before the Maryland legislature. The reply we then gave, seems to be so opportune to the subject-matter now in hand, as to require insertion here, and we trust it will present the question in a light so favorable, and so unvarnished, as not only to attract attention, but to challenge credence. We give the extract below, and shall leave to the reader the task of discovering what would be the amount of national benefits, from those we have shown to be derivable, easily, by a single state:

"6 What amount in money value, will any given number of acres in the Mulberry and Silk culture, give to the labor of the State?"

This question, though last is not the least in my affections, for it opens a wide prospective field of promise for the people of my native State, if they should but have the wisdom and forecast to improve the opportunity now presented for their acceptance. As your query gives me the privilege of assuming any given number of acres as my datum, I shall fix upon the same number named in my memorial to the General Assembly, and show by my detail, that the aggregate sum therein stated, is much, very much below what may be realized. I state as my belief, in that paper, that in ten years, if the people so will it, the agricultural products of the State may be increased in amount by the Silk culture, five millions of dollars, the data I therein furnish proves that that sum is not a moiety of the amount that may be produced on 5,000 acres. My object in thus keeping down the amount of product, is to be found in my desire to make no over- sanguine calculation; that contingencies might prevent the fruition of it.

With these explanatory remarks, which I make for your satisfaction and in justification to myself, I will now proceed to answer your sixth and last query, and availing myself of its scope, I will presume that the culture in Maryland has so far progressed, as that her citizens have 5000 acres under cultivation. If the species of mulberry grown be the *Morus Multicaulis*, I maintain each acre, after the first year, will be capable of affording a sufficient quantity of foliage to feed a million of worms, and this, you will readily conceive to be possible,

when I tell you that these trees, or rather shrubs, for ordinarily, they do not grow higher than from 6 to 8 feet, will bear 3631 of them being planted on one acre, the eligible distance being 2 by 6 feet. Though low of stature, they make up for that deficiency in the number of their stalks—hence their cognomen, *Morus Multicaulis*—the many stalked mulberry—and those stalks are filled with lateral branches from their starting place at the earth, to near their extreme points. Their leaves, too, are of great size, many of them being from 10 to 13 inches in their way, and being so clear of stems, or indurated fibres, as to be nearly all edible by the worms.

Having supposed that 5000 acres are in the mulberry culture, I will give you the data of my calculations, in order that you may make your own, and thereby satisfy yourself as to the justness of mine. As one acre will feed 1,000,000 of worms, and 3000 cocoons will make 1 lb. of silk, so will 1,000,000 of cocoons make 333 1/3 lbs. of silk; and as 1 acre yields 333 1/3 lbs. of silk, so will 5000 acres yield 1,666,666 2/3 lbs. of silk. It will require 10 hinds between 7 and 10 years of age* to gather the leaves and feed the worms which can be supported on an acre. Besides these, a careful person, male or female, had overlook them, and see that the work is faithfully done—this latter person, I shall leave out of my calculation, as the duty should either devolve on the head of the family, or some one of his household in whom he can confide, and therefore no actual money charge upon him. Then as it will take 10 children on an acre, so it will take 50,000 to attend 5000 acres. If these children receive 75 cents per week for their labor, and they ought to get that or more, as the culture will bear it, then will each earn during the 6 weeks of the feeding season, the sum of \$4.50; or the wages of the 50,000 during that time will amount in the aggregate to \$225,000. If they were to get \$1 per week the aggregate of their wages would be \$300,000.

This is but one branch of the laborers to be employed. After the worms have spun their silk, then comes in the female department to convert the cocoons into sewings, or raw silk. The 5,000 acres as I have shown will produce 1,666,666 2/3 lbs. of silk. If this quantity be spun into sewing silk, as one woman is only competent to spin 2 3/4 lbs. per day, and there are about 213 working days in a year, she can only make 142 lbs. in that time, so that to convert the whole quantity into sewing silks, it will require the services of 11,737 women to do so; now if they be allowed \$2 per month, their aggregate wages will amount to \$422,782 for their year's services.—At \$4 per month, it will be \$563,376. The money value of labor will then stand thus:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| For 50,000 children as feeders at 75 cents per week, | \$225,000 |
| For 11,737 women as spinners at \$3 per month, | 428,732 |
| | \$648,732 |
| Or thus: | |
| For 50,000 feeders at \$1 per week, | \$300,000 |
| For 11,737 spinners at \$4 per month, | 563,376 |
| | \$863,375 |

Should a portion of the product be made into raw silk, as it doubtless will be, fewer females will be required for that service, as the silk reels proper, unwind a much larger quantity of cocoons than the machine combining both the operation of spinning and reeling. I should say, that four times the amount of work may be done, so that a deduction of female laborers in that proportion ought rightfully to be made for whatever quantity of raw silk which should be made. But suppose I assume as the sum of money-value for labor to be given to the State by this culture, only \$500,000, and I would then ask you, if the laborers employed be indigent white females and children, what a volume of real comfort and happiness would that sum confer upon that worthy, though suffering portion of our state? How many countenances that are now dimmed with suffering, would it brighten? Look around you, sir, in your own immediate neighborhood, if there be not many a poor widow with her helpless offspring, to whom such employment would not be emphatically a God-send? Have you not often in your experience through life, seen a poor man, the head of a family, cut off, leaving behind him a widow and some four or five children utterly destitute?—In looking on such a scene of desolation have you not felt your heart's pulsation quicken almost to suffocation? If you have witnessed such a scene, so has every man in every neighborhood in our State—and to such—to thousands of suffering poor which are to be found in all the States of this Union, this branch of agricultural employment, would prove of the very first importance. Instead of the children of the poor being burdens as they now are, they would become so many sources of revenue to their parents, and while their labor would form an important item in the sum of individual wealth, so would it comprise one of equal moment in that of our State, for it is of such materials that national wealth is constituted.

It may be said that a large portion of this labor would be performed by the slave population of our state; but this does not in

the least change the amount of appreciation given to the labor of Maryland; for their services would be just as valuable though their masters should be the recipients, as if the same amount was paid away to free white laborers, with this in favor of the masters that it would be so much saved, and as the proverb says, a penny saved is a penny gained; it is, therefore, clear, that whether the labor be performed by the colored population, or by the other, the increased value of the labor of the State would be the same.

I have thus far confined myself to the value of personal labor, because I thought, from the phrasology of your question, your intention was that I should so construe it; but as I have thus far formed to what I conceived to have been your views, I must take another and broader view of the subject. The money due to be given to the labor of the State, by the occupation of 5,000 acres in the cultivation of silk is what the silk produce will bring; for it is the labor, after all, that imparts value to the commodity from beginning to end. Let us see what that is. Now, as I have before shown, 5,000 acres will produce 1,666,666 2/3 lbs. of silk. This, if sold as raw silk, at \$4 per pound, would be worth \$6,666,666 2/3—if as sewing silks, \$11,666,666 2/3. So you see, my dear sir, what an immense appreciation, even 5,000 acres of our worn out soil is capable of giving to the products of the State—or as you have it, perhaps, more properly, to its labor.

I think you will coincide with me in the opinion, that in ten years the number of acres of land named above, may be appropriated to this culture without in the least interfering with our present systems of agriculture. And here let me assure you of the sincerity of my belief, that whenever this result shall have been brought about, Maryland will be one of the richest and happiest states in the Union. What is to prevent us from becoming so? Apathy on the part of ourselves, and neglect on the part of those whose province it is to nurture and protect the public interests. Let me ask you, sir, if when many of our most enterprising and industrious citizens are departing from among us, to return no more, as citizens—when many estates are left unoccupied, and neighborhoods in some of our counties literally broken up, if it is not meet that some noble effort should be made to arrest the evil? Does it not behoove those who represent the descendants of that gallant band of granite hearts, who perished for our liberties, to do something worthy of that fame they won so dearly? Do not self-esteem, patriotism, and state pride, all combine to demand that some substantive measures should be adopted to count and bring out the resources of Maryland. Our climate and soil are most happily adapted to this culture; and as it is well known that poor soil makes the best silk, why should we not embrace the occasion to render our worn out fields available? To give profitable employment to our population—and especially to that portion of them whose helplessness commend them to our sympathy and protection? Self-interest, humanity, and public policy alike dictate the course.

Let me ask your permission to claim your attention a few moments longer, while I apply a few remarks to individual cases. An industrious poor man has half an acre in the culture; he and his working hands attend to his other farming operations—his wife and his small children attend to the feeding of the worms, from which she realizes a clear profit of upwards of seven hundred dollars, a much larger amount than her husband and some four or five working hands realized off of a hundred acres in ordinary culture. Another, with larger means, has one acre in mulberry, his wife and children attend to it, and he gains by the operation a net profit rising fourteen hundred dollars. A third, with still larger means, has two acres in the culture, and he nets a profit over \$2,800—and these profits are exclusive of the value of their respective families' services. A fourth, with ample means has his 10 acres in the culture, and he receives a net profit nearly amounting to \$15,000 a year. Now I pray you to picture to yourself the relative degree of comfort and opulence which such a state of things is calculated to produce in a very few years. Examine the question in all its bearings; make the proper application of its benefits and its blessings, and I am sure you will stand up the bold and fearless advocate of the cause."

We ask the reader to reflect well upon the views we have offered to his consideration, and we pray him to believe us when we declare, that they are not the mere speculations of enthusiasm, but are the sober deductions of mathematical calculations; and we further ask him, to contemplate the sum of prosperity and happiness, which the mulberry and silk culture is calculated to confer upon the American people. We ask him to picture to himself the changed appearance of things which would be wrought up by such outpouring of blessings. We request him to bear in mind that there are but few small farmers in our land, whether proprietors or tenants, that do much more to use a familiar phrase, "than make both ends meet," and the present state of agriculture; but few, indeed, who are able to give their children any thing more than a common education. But let the Silk culture be once adopted, and again we ask him, if it is not competent to produce a moral and pecuniary revolution in the moral and pecuniary condition of our people.

Deeply impressed with a high and abiding sense of the great value to result from it, we call upon the rich and enlightened, by every

consideration of patriotism and interest to rally to the rescue of their country, and set an example worthy of all emulation—we appeal to those in humble life, as they love their wives and children, to follow the example we would here invoke. We call upon every man pursuing agricultural as a business, to engraft the Silk culture upon it as a branch, as it is the interest of themselves and families that they should do so. And in closing our labors, we must be indulged a few remarks expressive of our hopes, that a feeling and an interest have already been aroused which will not slumber until the triumph be complete. We are doubly solicitous on this head, because we see in the success of the Silk culture, the sure means that philanthropically can be desired for sustaining the households and tens of thousands of poor women and children, whose support is now stunted and precarious; because we see in it too, a radical cure for an evil which is sweeping the inhabitants from the old states and settlements with a force which almost threatens depopulation to many neighboring lands; and lastly because it will afford the pecuniary ability of improving the other portions of each on which a culture may be introduced. To several of the old states, it offers the only available resource for political safety—the only guaranty against those encroachments which never fail to follow in that train of evils that befall the weak in the vicinity of the strong. There is no truth more firmly enforced by history, than that *præe* and *independence*, is only to be expected where the ability to repel and punish aggression is enjoyed. It should, therefore be the policy of small powers living in close vicinity with large ones, to keep a careful prospective eye about them, in order that their more potent neighbors may not be provoked by their weakness to contemplate their subjugation; for the history of the ancient Republics confirms the melancholy truth, that *power*, in the view of nations, is but another word for *right*; and that the ties of consanguinity and the claims of common origin, offer no barriers to that unchastened ambition and unbounded desire of conquest, which is indulged in by most states, towards their weak and defenceless neighbors.

[The estimate of Mr. Roberts, that an acre of *Multicaulis* may be made to feed a million of worms is too high. If the land is made rich enough for this, the leaves will be too rich and watery to make good silk or support the worms in the best health. But suppose it to require from three to five, or even ten acres, what is the expense of land and cultivation in the Southern States compared with the profits? The price of silk is now nearly or quite fifty per cent. higher than it was a few years ago when the above remarks were written, whilst the expense of producing it is lessened by the improvements in feeding the worms &c. made in this country.]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The following Annual Message from the President of the United States was transmitted to both Houses of Congress on Tuesday 23d. Dec. through A. Van Buren, Esq., Private Secretary:

Fellow citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I regret that I cannot on this occasion, congratulate you that the past year has been one of unalloyed prosperity. The ravages of fire and disease have painfully afflicted otherwise flourishing portions of our country, and serious embarrassments yet derange the trade of many of our cities. But, notwithstanding these adverse circumstances, that general prosperity which has been heretofore so bountifully bestowed upon us by the Author of all Good, still continues to call for our warmest gratitude. Especially have we reason to rejoice in the exuberant harvests which have lavishly recompensed well directed industry, and given to it that sure reward which is vainly sought in visionary speculations. I cannot, indeed, view, without peculiar satisfaction, the evidences afforded by the past season of the benefits that spring from the steady devotion of the husbandman to his honorable pursuit. No means of individual comfort is more certain, and no source of national prosperity is so sure. No thing can compensate a people for a dependence upon others for the bread they eat; and that cheerful abundance on which the happiness of every one so much depends, is to be looked for nowhere with such sure reliance as in the industry of the agriculturist and the bounties of the earth.

With foreign countries, our relations exhibit the same favorable aspect which was presented in my last annual message, and afford continued proof of the wisdom of the pacific, just and forbearing policy adopted by the first Administration of the Federal Government, and pursued by its successors. The extraordinary powers vested in me by an act of Congress, for the defence of the country in an emergency, considered so far probable as to require its exertion, and as it is about to return to the Legislature, I trust that no future necessity may call for its exercise by them, or its delegation to another department of the Government.

For the settlement of our Northeastern

boundary, the proposition promised by Great Britain for a commission of exploration and survey, has been received, and a counter project, including also a provision for the certain and final adjustment of the limits in dispute, is now before the British Government for its consideration. A just regard to the delicate state of this question, and a proper respect for the natural impatience of the State of Maine, not less than a conviction that the negotiation has been already protracted longer than is prudent on the part of either Government, have led me to believe that the present favorable moment should on no account be suffered to pass without putting the question forever at rest. I feel confident that the Government of her Britannic Majesty will take the same view of this subject, as I am persuaded it is governed by desires equally strong and sincere for the amicable termination of the controversy.

To the intrinsic difficulties of questions of boundary lines, especially those described in regions unoccupied, and but partially known, is to be added in our country the embarrassment necessarily arising out of our Constitution, by which the General Government is made the organ of negotiating, and deciding upon the particular interests of the States on whose frontiers these lines are to be traced. To avoid another controversy in which a State Government might rightfully claim to have her wishes consulted, previously to the conclusion of conventional arrangements concerning her rights of jurisdiction or territory, I have thought it necessary to call the attention of the Government of Great Britain to another portion of our common dominion, of which the division still remains to be adjusted. I refer to the line from the entrance of Lake Superior to the most northerly point of the Lake of the Woods, stipulations for the settlement of which are to be found in the seventh article of the treaty of Ghent. The commissioners appointed under that article by the two Governments having differed in their opinions, made separate reports, according to its stipulations, upon the points of disagreement, and these differences are now to be submitted to the arbitration of some friendly sovereign or State. The disputed points should be settled, and the line designated, before the Territorial Government, of which it is one of the boundaries, takes its place in the Union as a State; and I rely upon the cordial co-operation of the British Government to effect this object.

There is every reason to believe that disturbances like those which lately agitated the neighboring British Provinces will not again prove the sources of border contentions, or a terpose obstacles to the continuance of that good understanding which it is the mutual interest of Great Britain and the United States to preserve and maintain.

Within the Provinces themselves tranquility is restored; and on our frontier that misguided sympathy in favor of what was presumed to be a general effort in behalf of popular rights, and which in some instances misled a few of our more inexperienced citizens, has subsided in a national conviction strongly opposed to all intermeddling with the internal affairs of our neighbors.—The people of the United States feel, as it is hoped they always will, a warm solicitude for the success of all who are sincerely endeavoring to improve the political condition of mankind. This generous feeling they cherish towards the most distant nations; and it was natural, therefore, that it should be awakened with more than common warmth in behalf of their immediate neighbors. But it does not belong to their character, as a community, to seek the gratification of those feelings in acts which violate their duty as citizens, endanger the peace of their country, and tend to bring upon it the stain of a violated faith towards foreign nations. If, zealous to confer benefits on others, they appear for a moment to lose sight of the permanent obligations imposed upon them as citizens, they are seldom long misled. From all the information I receive, confirmed to some extent by personal observation, I am satisfied that no one can now hope to engage in such enterprises without encountering public indignation, in addition to the severest penalties of the law.

Recent information also leads me to hope that the emigrants from her Majesty's Provinces, who have sought refuge within our boundaries, are disposed to become peaceable residents and to abstain from all attempts to endanger the peace of that country which has afforded them an asylum. On a review of the occurrences on both sides of the line, it is satisfactory to reflect, that in almost every complaint against our country, the offence may be traced to emigrants from the Provinces who have sought refuge here. In the few instances in which they were aided by citizens of the United States, the acts of these misguided men were not only in direct contravention of the laws and well known wishes of their own Government, but met with the decided disapprobation of the people of the United States.

I regret to state the appearance of a different spirit among her Majesty's subjects in the Canadas. The sentiments of hostility to our people and institutions, which have been so frequently expressed there, and the disregard of our rights which have been manifested on some occasions, have, I am sorry to say, been applauded and encouraged by the people, and even by some of the subordinate local authorities, of the Provinces. The chief officers in Canadas fortunately have not entertained the same feeling, and have probably prevented exces-